

Intervention on provisional agenda item 3.6 - Addressing the global shortage of, and access to, medicines and vaccines
142th EXECUTIVE BOARD

Speaker: Ms Zuzana Kusynová, from the International Pharmaceutical Federation (FIP)

Honourable Chair, Distinguished Delegates,

Thank you for the opportunity to speak on behalf of the International Pharmaceutical Federation (FIP), which represents over four million pharmacists worldwide.

We would like to congratulate the WHO on the ongoing work towards the implementation of Resolution WHA69.25, pertaining to the global shortage of medicines and vaccines. FIP welcomed the opportunity to contribute to the technical consultations supporting the implementation of this essential resolution.

We acknowledge the importance of a global reporting system for medicines shortages. We supported the initiation of the development of such a system with our publication last year entitled "[Reporting medicine shortages: Models and tactical options.](#)" This provides an overview of some existing reporting system models. Shortages pose an increasing concern to health care professionals and put lives of patients at risk. The continued leadership of WHO in this area is, therefore, needed more than ever.

Access to safe, effective and quality medicines and vaccines cannot be achieved without supply chain integrity and efficiency. Pharmacists are medicines experts with an essential role in the full range of supply chain activities. These range from the production of medicines, through distribution of medicines to wholesalers, storing and repackaging of medicines and distribution to pharmacies, to the selection and administration of medicines to patients, follow up and pharmacovigilance.

FIP is currently finalising a report on the optimal role and use of the pharmacist in the pharmaceutical supply chain in different environments. Once published, it will be freely available on our website under "publications".

Finally, we would like to reaffirm pharmacists' commitment in addressing the global shortage of and inadequate access to medicines and vaccines.

Thank you for your attention.